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## NEWS AND VIEWS

### Yugoslavia: Revived Unrest in Kosovo [REDACTED]

Albanian nationalist demonstrations in Kosovo Province late last week provided clear evidence of Belgrade's inability to stabilize the province after a year of martial law. It may be faced with another resurgence of violence late this month during the first anniversary of the military occupation. With the Yugoslav Party Congress approaching in June, the leadership will be under increased pressure at least to show some progress toward resolving the Albanian problem. The regime's record suggests that Belgrade will continue to fumble.

Demonstrations on 11 March took place in at least five locations throughout the province. Although led by students, workers also reportedly joined the demonstrators. In Pristina, the provincial capital and the initial locus of last year's rioting, several hundred students gathered at the University's student center. Yugoslav police units, in a show of force, broke up the demonstration as the students marched toward provincial government buildings in Pristina.

Most of the other demonstrations were peaceful but there were reports of scattered violence. The most serious incident took place in Podujevo, where violent rioting last year approached armed rebellion. This time students trying to move to the center of Podujevo beat up two local Albanian government and party functionaries who tried to stop them.

For the most part, the demonstrators reiterated their now familiar demands that Kosovo have equal status with Serbia and that those imprisoned after last year's riots be released. Numerous calls for unification with neighboring Albania also indicate a growing pro-Tirana sentiment among Kosovo youth. The demonstrators this year

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added a religious tone by reportedly shouting Iranian leader Khomeini's name.

Approximately 85 percent of Kosovo's population is Muslim, though most have a cultural rather than religious affinity with the Muslim community. The youth, the core of the demonstrators, are less attracted than their elders to the religious aspects of their Muslim heritage, but their appeal to religion may presage new efforts to find broadly unifying themes among all Albanians. The introduction of pro-Khomeini chants, moreover, is likely to reinforce Yugoslav fears that Albanian Muslims--and perhaps their colleagues in Bosnia-Herzegovina--may seek external support from the international Muslim community in their struggle for more autonomy from Belgrade.

Belgrade must be distressed that such well-organized and apparently coordinated demonstrations by Albanian nationalists occurred at all. Last week's display of widespread discontent is indicative of Belgrade's failure to silence the most outspoken Albanian nationalist groups in the province and to convince Yugoslav Albanians in general that demands for republic status threaten Yugoslav unity and their own best interests.

The authorities, who claimed to have been surprised by the outbreak of violence last year, are no doubt embarrassed by the security forces' inability to head off the demonstrations. Unless Yugoslav leaders make some effort to solve the Kosovo problem in the next few months, they will be vulnerable to attacks from all sides at the upcoming party congress. The hardliners will point to the regime's impotence and urge increased repression while moderates will try to block a more draconian policy and open the way for a political solution.

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